

**NEW ENGLAND LABORERS'/CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONSTRUCTION CAREER ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

October 25, 2011

12 Noon Executive Session

Public Session Immediately Following

NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy

Conference Room – 4 Sharpe Drive

Cranston, RI 02920

MINUTES

This meeting of the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy was held on the above date in the conference room with the following members present: Chairman Traficante, Ms. Larkin, Mrs. McFarland, Mr. Nero, Mr. Cardi and Mr. Sabitoni. Absent were Mrs. DeSimone, Mr. Rampone and Dr. Leone.

Chairman Traficante called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. The roll was called; there was a quorum present. There was no executive session.

Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) Approved – September 27, 2011. A motion was made by Mr. Cardi to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2011 meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. All were in favor.

There were no speakers or public acknowledgements/communications.

Presentation by the League of Charter Schools/Advocacy Solutions

Mr. Scaffardi introduced the group making this presentation and gave a brief synopsis of what our history is with Advocacy Solutions and the importance of this professional development for our board.

Power Point presentation attached for the record. (Handout #1 and 1A).

At 12:50 p.m. Mr. Sabitoni made a motion for a five minute recess. Seconded by Mr. Cardi. All were in favor.

At 12:55 p.m. the meeting reconvened.

Committee Reports/Reports/Updates

Executive Director Report – (See handout #2)

Mr. Curran stated –

Enrollment – presently we have 237 students in the school; our target is 245. That number moves a little bit as we continue to get students recommended to us and we sometimes have students that will go back to their sending district for one reason or another so the number is a little fluid but that is pretty close to what it is today. I suspect between now and early winter we will get to our target number.

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The districts that our students come from (see handout #3).

Eleven districts send students to us. Our state aid is predicated on our enrollment and that is why we stay around the 245 number because it's the number that we target for our budget purposes.

NECAP

At our last meeting we were preparing for the NECAP to start and we will be shipping it all up tomorrow to be scored. We had a very successful NECAP experience for our students. The students were very focused throughout the testing process and extremely committed to these efforts. Results will come out in early February.

PE Field Trip

These students, as a reward for their efforts, we will be taking them on a PE fieldtrip to a rock climbing gym in Lincoln.

Status of Renewal

The final report from Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of Transformation (see handout#4) was handed out to the board members. Discussion ensued regarding the process of correcting errors and omissions in the report. Mr. Curran stated - RIDE informed us in September that they were going to review those errors and omissions, push back the report and make some edits. This past Friday I received the final report. Largely they did not make any changes to the substance of the report. They did some cutting and pasting, they moved some things around but when I put the draft report from the summer next to the final report that I received on Friday, there is no substantive change in their recommendations.

Mr. Nero stated – so it wasn't evidenced in the first time we met with them and they evidenced more problems in the second time.

Discussion continued regarding NECAP scores, financial stability of the school, and freedom of speech. Mr. Curran stated - In the appendix of the report is our pushback on the report. That should be helpful to the Board of Regents. We will be meeting with the Office of Transformation on Friday along with two other charter schools who are up for re-charter. We will get further direction at that time regarding our re-charter.

Mr. Cardi asked that the board be notified of the results of the meeting with the Office of Transformation. Mr. Curran stated he would send out a memo to the board members.

Newsletter (see handout #5)

Copy was distributed to the board.

Staffing

Mr. Curran stated one of our teachers has become the new vice president of the teachers' union, John Santangelo, and as such .4 of his position has to be attributed to union work and essentially the union will pay for that .4 position. We now have to hire a .4 person to take up those classes that he would have otherwise taught. We are interviewing this Thursday for that math position and at the next board meeting we will bring forth a candidate for that position.

Also, in AEP we are looking for instructors in ELA and math. That is not a full time teacher; they get paid hourly. They too will be placed on the agenda.

Charter Roundtable, October 7th at LIUNA

Mr. Curran stated – I will be attending this meeting for our charter school and a couple of other charter schools. This meeting is hosted by Mr. Armand Sabitoni.

Homeroom Coverage

Mr. Curran stated – I have assigned two teachers to every homeroom starting this week so if the teacher is absent and there is a sub in there we have another teacher in the room who can take the attendance, knows the students and so forth.

RIDE CTE Standards

Mr. Curran stated – RIDE is coming out with new standards (see handout #6). There was an article in the Journal on October 6. Apparently the commissioner believes that career and technical schools should have a stronger focus on their education programs to prepare kids for the real world of work. (See newspaper article – handout #7). Mr. Curran quoted from the article: “the quality of programs needs to be improved and updated, particularly in health care, information technology, bio-tech, hospitality and construction – key drivers of the Rhode Island economy.” “Gist envisions, for example, a construction program that enables students to earn an

industry-recognized certificate. Some students would enter the work force after graduation, while others would enter a training or post-secondary program to learn related skills such as drafting. Still others would enter four-year colleges and study architecture or engineering.” Mr. Curran continued – the new standards really play in well with what we do here at the Academy and have been doing for years at the Academy. It’s nice to see that the Commissioner is looking at that focus, particularly with a focus on the construction field because that’s one of the fields in Rhode Island that jobs are actually opening up in. I think this is going to help us as we go forward in our re-chartering application.

Mr. Traficante stated – at our meeting at LIUNA, Armand Sabitoni donated \$20,000 to the Charter School to be deposited into the school checking account for any school activity or event that is not budgeted for in our operating budget. He is also contributing \$15,000 and Jay Sabitoni is researching some equipment necessary in our construction laboratory to improve the ventilation. The equipment should cost around \$15,000.

Program Coordinator’s Report

Mr. Scaffardi stated – to follow up on the NECAP’s – every single student in the junior class, included AEP, took the test and they took is seriously. There were no blanks. Even the math that was extremely difficult, they put something down, they understood they would get credit for anything that they wrote.

Mr. Scaffardi stated – I have spent a lot of time with the Charter League on the Crisis Protocol sub-committee and what was presented today was a result of our work since last August. The people at Advocacy Solutions were there with us. We are the first group to roll this out so that sub-committee will approve that on a state-wide basis. In terms of reauthorization, you have faculty members here who have agreed to be on the School Improvement Team (SIT) to develop our school improvement plan using the same template that Cranston has used in the past. It has been expanded to include all the content areas.

Financial Advisor's Report

Mrs. Corcelli handed out the proposed Operating Budget (see handout #8) and explained all the revenue and expenses to the Board. Mr. Curran stated - It should be noted the special education sending districts costs have reduced dramatically. The specifics will be reviewed by Mr. Traficante, Mr. Balducci and me. We will be attending a meeting in December to discuss the new state formula and the special education figures.

Assistant to the Executive Director's Report

Recruitment – Mr. Pecorelli stated this is an on-going process. With the mid-terms that have gone out in all of the high schools I am getting information that we may be getting more students but it is the

students that are not doing very well in those schools. I will be recruiting which is what we do and what we do a good job at but it's the caliber of the student that we have to deal with. Luckily we have the resources to make the best of that situation.

Mr. Traficante stated – I want to clarify the 245 number. It is critically important because at the end of last year our enrollment numbers were at 245. That number carries over into the beginning of this year. However, at the end of this school year, whatever number we end up with, is carried over to the following school year. So we may end up with 8 or 9 kids less than our current school year and if you multiply that by our per pupil expenditure, it's over \$100,000 lost dollars. We can ill afford to lose that kind of money so it is imperative that our recruiting become very effective and very aggressive.

Mr. Pecorelli stated – we also had some recruiting posters made which I will bring to the various high schools, libraries, and teen centers.

Alternate Education Program (See handout #9)

AEP report was read into the record.

A motion to accept the Executive Director's report was made by Mr. Sabitoni, seconded by Mrs. McFarland, all were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

No. 10-1-11 - Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Executive Director, said certified personnel be appointed for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year:

This resolution was withdrawn.

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Business

No. 10-2-11 – Resolved, that the 2011-2012 Operating Budget, as recommended by the Executive Director, be approved

Moved by Mr. Cardi, seconded by Mr. Sabitoni. All were in favor.

The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2011 and December 20 (in Pomfret, CT).

There being no further business to come before the Board a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sabitoni and seconded by Mr. Cardi. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Traficante

Chairman